

SENATE BILL 2724

By Tracy

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from state lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-4-9__.

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship, a teacher shall:

(1) Be a tenured teacher teaching in a Tennessee public school system;

(2) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(3) Meet the requirements of § 49-4-905(a). The provisions of § 49-4-905(b) shall not apply to teachers seeking Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarships;

(4) Be admitted to and attend an eligible postsecondary institution seeking an advanced degree in a field in which such teacher is presently licensed to teach or intends to obtain a license to teach or seeking an advanced degree in education administration or supervision;

(5) Maintain satisfactory progress in the teacher's program of study;

(6) Agree to teach or to be an administrator in a Tennessee public school system two (2) academic years for each year of funding provided by a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship and sign a promissory note that stipulates the cash repayment obligation incurred if the teaching service is not fulfilled; and

(7) Apply for a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship.

(b)

(1) Except as provided in subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, no minimum number of hours of enrollment is required for eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship.

(2) The program of study a teacher is attempting shall be completed within five (5) years, beginning with the first term for which scholarship funds are awarded.

(3) A teacher's eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship expires, if the teacher has a break in enrollment at an eligible postsecondary institution of more than twelve (12) months.

(c) Subject to the amounts appropriated by the general assembly and any provision of law relating to a shortfall in funds available for postsecondary financial assistance from the net proceeds of the state lottery, a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship awarded to a teacher shall be two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per year. The total amount of a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship awarded to a teacher shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for all years required for the teacher's program of study.

(d) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship shall be made under this section.

(e) Scholarships awarded under this section shall not commence prior to fall semester, 2006.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Advanced degree" means a master's degree, a doctorate or other degree conferred by an eligible postsecondary institution upon completion of a unified program of study at the graduate level;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(a), is amended by deleting the language "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, Tennessee HOPE access grant, or a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, a student shall have:" and substituting instead the language "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, Tennessee HOPE access grant, Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship or a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, a student shall have:".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(a), is further amended by deleting subdivision (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) Made application for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, Tennessee HOPE access grant, Tennessee HOPE teacher's scholarship or Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant; and

SECTION 5. The Tennessee student assistance corporation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 6. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.